

***These tactics are doing more harm than good – they lead to lower achievement, higher drop-out rates and an alienation of students.- Sen. William Delgado***



**SPRINGFIELD, IL** – State Senator William Delgado (D–Chicago), previously a local School Council Member at Kelvyn Park High School, is standing with parents who are tired of choosing between paying punitive fees charged by Noble and bus fare.

In a letter to the editor by Jasmine Sarmiento, a student leader with Voices of Youth in Chicago Education and Julie Woestehoff, Executive Director of Parents United for Responsible Education they examine the continuing stories of hardship that are coming from parents whose children attend Noble Charter School.

“Noble teachers and even CEO Michael Milkie’s new motto is ‘If you don’t like it, you can leave’ instead of actually focusing on appropriate consequence for students or actually investing in the success of the students,” said Senator Delgado. “This position tells me they are just out to make money without any regard for their students.”

Unfortunately, what is being seen across Chicago is that students are being pushed out of school because of the increasing pressures to improve test results.

“And, they are not just using monetary penalties, I have been told that other charter schools are reportedly using punishing tactics such as multi-week suspensions, school-based arrests and forced transfers to take students out of the classroom,” stated Delgado. “The worst part of the whole situation is that these fines and punishments are being imposed on communities that are already struggling economically.”

“These tactics being used at Noble are doing more harm than good – they lead to lower achievement, higher drop-out rates and an alienation of students,” Delgado stated.

“There are better ways to engage students. One way may be to bring in the Advancement Project or some other successful organization. I believe the principles they use can help Chicago Public Schools get back on track.”